

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-8 are now pending in the application. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1, 6 and 7 were amended herein. The changes are not proposed to be made for any reasons related to patentability.

The claim changes are proposed in order to further clarify the scope of the independent claims. In particular, minor changes are proposed to clarify that each raster corresponds to the input image data and although the repetition sequence of the dot arrangements is the same for each raster, the dot arrangement corresponding to the starting position of the repetition sequence differs in every raster. Strictly as an example, referring to Fig. 14, although the sequence of dot arrangements is the same in every raster (i.e., A→B→C→D→A→...), the starting dot arrangement differs from raster to raster (i.e., raster 1: A, raster 2: D, raster 3: C, etc.). The proposed changes more clearly cover this feature.

It is respectfully submitted that the proposed amendments do not add new matter and do not affect the allowability of the application. The need for the proposed changes was only recently discovered and their entry would not place undue burden on the Patent and Trademark Office.

Favorable consideration and entry hereof are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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